awaiting the assent of the President of India. Since the preparation of this answer, the President's assent has been received."

Sri K. Vinayakam :—" Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to let us know the exact population of slum dwellers in the City of Madras and what is the percentage that has been affected by cholera? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. Shetty :—" The number of slums in the City is 241 and the population is 265,000."

Sri A. Ratnam :—" May I know from the Hon. Minister whether the Government have received any representation regarding the death of a female patient in the I.D. Hospital, Tondiarpet on account of improper treatment in the hospital and . . ."

Mr. Speaker :—" What has that to do with the main question? "

Sri M. Narayana Kurup :—" May I know whether the slum-dwellers are provided with facilities for drinking water, and if so from what source? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. Shetty :—" I suppose the slum-dwellers make use of the protected water-supply in the city."

Sinking of filter-point tube wells in South Arcot.

* 771 *Q.*—Sri S. Radhakrishnan : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any amount is allotted for the year 1954–55 for sinking filter-point tube wells in South Arcot district;

(*b*) if so, the total amount allotted and the number of such wells to be sunk for that amount; and

(*c*) whether any minimum qualification is required from the ryots to apply for a tube well of that kind?

The Hon. Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam :—" (*a*) Yes.

" (*b*) A total sum of Rs. 1,17,200 has been tentatively allotted for the sinking of 40 such wells.

" (*c*) As the wells are sunk on ryots' lands at their cost, no minimum qualification has been prescribed. Loans in the shape of pumping machinery up to a limit of Rs. 2,500 per individual, are also granted to the ryots concerned. These ryots should be solvent to the extent required and should also produce two sureties each."

Sri S. Deivasigamany :—" May I know for how long these filter points will be serviceable? "

The Hon. Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam :—" We have no experience. We have just started these filter points. They

serve quite all right in the areas where they are functioning and the ryots are quite satisfied with them. We cannot forecast how long they will serve."

SRI K. PARTHASARATHY :—" Are these facilities available to all the agriculturists in South Arcot or only to the agriculturists in certain areas of South Arcot district? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" These filter points could be had only where the water table is 20 to 30 feet."

SRI S. C. VIRUPAKSHAYYA :—" May I know whether these filter points were tried in other areas and if so with what result? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Yes, Sir, they are tried in other districts like Tanjore, Tiruchirappalli, Madurai, Ramanathapuram, North Arcot, Chingleput, Salem and South Kanara."

Construction of a road from Badiadka to Kavur.

* 772 *Q.*—SRI M. S. MOGRAL : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received representations from the public of Kasaragod taluk in January 1954 urging the construction of a road from Badiadka to Kavur via Kumbdaje; and

(*b*) if so, what action the Government have taken in the matter?

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASWAMY PADAYACHI :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) The matter is under the consideration of the South Kanara District Board."

SRI M. S. MOGRAL :—" In view of the poor financial position of the district board, will the Government come to the rescue of the district board and see that this road is constructed at a very early date? "

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASWAMY PADAYACHI :—" Yes, Sir, we have also directed the Special Officer to take necessary action."

Overtime work in the Government Press, Madras.

* 773 *Q.*—SRI A. GOVINDASAMY NAYAGAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether the Government Press, Madras, has been working overtime for the last two years continuously?

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHU PATHI :—" Yes, Sir, almost continuously."